

REMARKS

Claims 2 through 4 and 6 through 14 are pending in this Application. Applicants acknowledge, with appreciation, the Examiner's indication that claims 3 through 5, 9 and 10 contain allowable subject matter.

Claims 2, 3, 6 and 14 have been amended, and claims 1 and 5 cancelled. Care has been exercised to avoid the introduction of new matter. Adequate descriptive support for the present Amendment should be apparent throughout the original filed disclosure as, for example, page 14, lines 14 through 26, and page 25, lines 14 through page 26, line 5, noting that claim 3, indicated allowable, has been placed in independent form and claim 2 made dependent thereon. Applicants submit that the present Amendment does not generate any new matter issue.

Claims 1, 2, 6 through 8 and 11 through 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 for obviousness predicated upon Jinno et al. in view of Kabuto et al.

This rejection is traversed.

Claims 1 and 2.

Claim 1 has been cancelled. Claim 3 indicated allowable, has been placed in independent form and claim 2 made dependent upon claim 3. Accordingly, this rejection has been rendered moot as claim 2 now depends from claim 3 which was indicated allowable.

Claims 6 through 8 and 11 through 14.

There is a substantial difference between the inventions defined in each of independent claims 6 and 14 such that even if the applied references are combined as suggested by the

Examiner, and Applicants do not agree that the requisite fact-based motivation has been established, the claimed invention would not result. *Uniroyal, Inc. v. Rudkin-Wiley Corp.*, 837 F.2d 1044, 5 USPQ2d 1434 (Fed. Cir. 1988). **This is because each of independent claims 6 and 14 requires the buffer element to be disposed between the final stage of the circuit block and the connector pin outputting a checking signal to be used for inspecting an operating state of the signal transmission circuit.** No such feature is disclosed by either Jinno et al. or Kabuto et al.

It should, therefore, be apparent that even if the applied references are combined as proposed by the Examiner, and again Applicants do not agree that the requisite fact-based motivation has been established, the claimed inventions would not result. *Uniroyal, Inc. v. Rudkin-Wiley Corp.*, *supra*.

Applicants, therefore, submit that the imposed rejection of claims 1, 2, 6 through 8 and 11 through 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 for obviousness predicated upon Jinno et al. in view of Kabuto et al. is not factually or legally viable and, hence, solicit withdrawal thereof.

Applicants again acknowledge, with appreciation, the Examiner's indication that claims 3 through 5, 9 and 10 contain allowable subject matter. Based upon the arguments submitted *supra*, it should be apparent that the imposed rejection has been overcome, and that all pending claims are in condition for immediate allowance. Favorable consideration is, therefore, solicited.

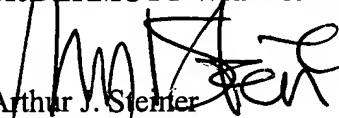
To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper,

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including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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